

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 and 19-35 are currently pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 have been amended for clarity purposes only.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Nasri to Applicants' representative during a personal interview conducted on September 6, 2006. The substance of the personal interview is discussed in greater detail below.

In the personal interview, Examiner Nasri agreed that a minor amendment to each of the independent claims (e.g., clarifying that the retaining clip is adapted to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force while engaged with the plug) will overcome the cited references of Kawaguchi and Maegawa (see Interview Summary). Accordingly, independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 have been amended for clarity purposes in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under the Kawaguchi and Maegawa references is respectfully requested.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

JENKINSON et al.
Appl. No. 10/602,532
September 13, 2006

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Reg. No. 51,094
for Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:IGS/lmr
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100